immediately preceding representation from the Chiefs of Staffs Committee. Apart from the regular weekly meetings and monthly Defence Minister's Committee meetings, the Chiefs of Staff always were accorded easy access.

(c) In terms of content, the Chiefs of Staff subjective perception about the personnel attitude was expressed but did not dwell on any concrete matter. Its contents were noted by Government.

Petition of Dy. Chief of Naval Staff

2338. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a petition filed by the recently appointed Deputy Chief of Naval Staff, he contended before the Calcutta High Court that there was a communal bias on the part of the then Chief of Naval Staff, in displaying inimical attitude towards him; and

(b) if so, the response of Government to such allegation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The recently appointed Deputy Chief of Naval Staff had filed a Writ Petition before the Calcutta High court for redressal of his grievances, inter-alia, for his appointment as Principal Staff Officer and expunction of adverse remarks endorsed by the former CNS. The officer had submitted two representations to NHQ, running to about 150 pages. In one of the representations the officer had made passing remarks on a denominational matter. The two representations, submitted by the officer which dealt with a number of issues of a substantive nature, form part of the Writ Petition filed before the Calcutta High Court.

On the directions of the Calcutta High Court, the Government had considered the statutory representations submitted by the officer after obtaining detailed comments from the Naval HQrs and granted him redress by way of expunging the adverse remarks endorsed by the former CNS. A show cause notice issued by the NHQ seeking explanation of the officer was also disposed of by the Government on the directions of the Calcutta High Court and the show cause closed. The Writ Petition is still pending before the High Court.

Relationship between civilian authorities and armed forces

2339. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to restructure the working relationship between the civilian authorities and the armed forces; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Some proposals having a bearing on the organisation of Ministry of Defence are being examined in the Government.

Revamping MES

2340. CHAUDHARY CHUNNI LAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether MES is an inter-service organisation, directly under the Ministry of Defence;

(b) whether it is a fact that Pay Commission recommended MES to be completely civil organisation and to install civilian officer as Head of the Department, as a first step; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for delay in its acceptance with the present strength of civilian officers/staff in MES, which is understood to be exceeding 90%?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The MES is a composite organisation where both military and civilians work.

(b) and (c) Even though, such recommendations have been made by the Pay Commission, the Army HQrs have expressed a different view on the issue. Further, keeping the mixed nature of the organisation in view, any decision taken must ensure that the interests of both Civilian Officers as well as the interest of the Military Officers are considered.